

SALT Pact Hits New Hill Snag

By Jack Fuller
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Chances dimmed yesterday for President Nixon to have a package of arms limitation agreements ratified by Congress to take to the Republican convention next week.

The House unexpectedly delayed its scheduled debate on the U.S.-Russian offensive weapons pact, while Senate disagreement over when and how to stop debate on amendments to the agreement continued to prevent any vote on the matter.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee met behind closed doors to question government intelligence experts about a charge that the Russians had lied to the United States during the negotiations that led to the agreement.

Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said after a CIA briefing there is "no basis for charges that the Russians lied."

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), whose amendment to the agreement has precipitated the extended debate, said Tuesday that he had "intelligence" information that the Russians have only 42 Y-class submarines deployed or under construction, though they had claimed to have 48.

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) urged Jackson to back up his charge and urged the Nixon administration to present its side of the story.

"I don't believe the President was bamboozled or taken in by the Russians," Mansfield said.

Administration officials before the agreement was signed noted publicly the discrepancy between the Russian and U.S. estimates of Soviet submarine strength, and attributed it to a disagreement about the definition of "under construction."

The House ran behind on its schedule yesterday and postponed debate on the arms agreement. Today the House is scheduled to take up a controversial measure involving the busing of schoolchildren, and it may not reach the arms agreement until Friday.

No progress was reported by Senate leaders on reaching an agreement to end debate, and Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said there appeared to be a "movement to prevent the Senate from voting."

Jackson's amendment would urge the President to seek "equality" of offensive weapons between the U.S. and Soviet Union in the second round of arms talks.

STATINTL

Fulbright Rejects Jackson's Charge

By DANA BULLEN
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Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has called unfounded a charge by Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., that the Soviets "lied" to President Nixon at the Moscow summit meeting.

The rejection of Jackson's charge — which Jackson still supported — came yesterday as both the House and Senate delayed their approval of a five-year U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms accord.

The agreement, reached at the Moscow talks in May, would freeze U.S. and Soviet land-based nuclear missiles at present levels, but it would permit the Russians 62 missile submarines compared to 44 for the United States.

The House, which bogged down on other legislation, now was expected to approve the pact today or tomorrow, but Senate action appeared unlikely until after Labor Day.

'No Basis Whatsoever'

Fulbright's dismissal of Jackson's "lie" claim followed a special briefing of the Foreign Relations Committee, at the chairman's request, by two CIA specialists on Soviet arms programs.

"On the basis of that briefing, together with statements by Dr. Kissinger, there is no basis whatsoever for the charge that the Russians lied to the President," the Arkansas Democrat said.

On Tuesday, Jackson claimed that the Soviets misled Nixon at the Moscow summit meeting in May by overstating progress on their nuclear missile submarine program, thus allowing them to seek a higher eventual total under the agreement.

Jackson, who is pressing for approval of a stiffening amendment to the Senate reso-

lution approving the May arms agreement, said that the Russians had falsely claimed they had 48 submarines deployed or under construction.

'Under Construction'

Instead, he said, intelligence reports now show the Soviets only had 42 missile submarines.

At the time, presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger said a differing use of terms might explain apparently conflicting figures, and Fulbright said yesterday that "at the most, there was a difference in the interpretation of the term 'construction.' "

It appeared from Kissinger's earlier statements that the U.S. side considered a submarine to be "under construction" when hull sections are brought together at an assembly shed, while the Russians used an earlier stage to mean a submarine was "under construction."

Jackson refused to back down after Fulbright's rejection of his charge and reiterated his claim. "They lied. There is no other way. They said they had 48," he said.

In other comments, Jackson claimed that opponents of his amendment calling for "equality" in any future nuclear arms agreement were delaying Senate votes because they know they would lose.

"They know we have the votes," he said.

Both the Senate and House are scheduled to recess tomorrow until after Labor Day because of the GOP national convention in Miami Beach next week.

The House is expected to approve the new arms agreement without difficulty, but controversy over Jackson's amendment could delay final Senate action for some time.